

focused on the same goal. We also believe that there needs to be a concerted national effort to raise awareness about the importance of financial literacy. Every level of government, our schools, our private sector companies, our non-profit organizations, and, perhaps most importantly, our parents all have an important role to play. We need to continue to work together to find creative solutions and encourage a national discussion of the basics of financial education. Efforts like designating April as "Financial Literacy Month" and the April 24th Financial Literacy Day on Capitol Hill are important parts of this effort, and we are very pleased to support both.

Thank you very much for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

CARRIE SCHWAB POMERANTZ,
President, Charles Schwab Foundation.

□ 1445

Ms. WATSON. I have no further speakers, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time also.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 273.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to acknowledge that today our country has been struck by a terrible, terrible tragedy. The death toll at Virginia Tech now is reported to be over 30. This is the worst campus shooting in the history of our country.

As the Virginia Tech community struggles with the mourning and questioning that is certain to follow, the continued prayers of this Congress are with the students, their families, the faculty and the staff at Virginia Tech.

Leader BOEHNER joins me in extending our condolences to all concerned. And we ask for a moment of silence to be observed in this body. Would we all please rise to observe the moment of silence.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED IN MEMORY OF THOSE SLAIN AT VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading association for the Nation's 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 71

Whereas the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) was founded July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, by eight visionary Greek immigrants to help unify, organize, and protect against the bigotry, discrimination, and defamation faced by people of all ethnic, race, and religious backgrounds perpetrated predominantly by the Ku Klux Klan;

Whereas the mission of AHEPA is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, which include philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism;

Whereas since its inception, AHEPA has instilled in its members an understanding of their Hellenic heritage and an awareness of the contributions made to the development of democratic principles and governance in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas AHEPA has done much throughout its history to foster American patriotism;

Whereas members of AHEPA served in the Armed Forces of the United States to protect American freedom and to preserve those democratic ideals that are part of the Hellenic legacy, and specifically in World War II, were parachuted behind enemy lines in Nazi-occupied Greece to help liberate it;

Whereas AHEPA raised more than \$253 million for United States War Bonds during World War II, for which AHEPA was named an official Issuing Agent for United States War Bonds by the Department of Treasury, an honor that no other civic organization was able to achieve at the time;

Whereas the members of AHEPA donated \$612,000 toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, New York, for which AHEPA received special recognition by the Department of the Interior;

Whereas the AHEPA National Housing Program was awarded \$500 million by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its Section 202 Program that has yielded 4,370 units in 80 properties across 21 states and 49 cities which has provided dignified, affordable housing to senior citizens;

Whereas AHEPA was recognized by the Department of State as an organization that has engaged in "Track Two Diplomacy" to foster reconciliation and rapprochement in the Eastern Mediterranean, which is in the best interest of the United States;

Whereas members of AHEPA raised \$110,000 for the creation of the George C. Marshall Statue erected on the grounds of the United States Embassy in Athens, Greece in celebration of the historic relationship between the United States and Greece, and in tribute to an outstanding Statesman and Philhellene, General Marshall;

Whereas AHEPA financially supports scholarships, educational chairs, medical research, and countless other charitable and philanthropic causes by contributing more than \$2,000,000 annually from its national, district, and local levels collectively;

Whereas in the spirit of their Hellenic heritage and in commemoration of the Centennial Olympic Games held in Atlanta, Georgia, members of AHEPA raised \$775,000 for the "Tribute" to Olympism Sculpture, the "fan-like" structure of which helped to save lives during the Olympic Bombing at Centennial Olympic Park;

Whereas members of AHEPA have been Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States, United States Senators and Representatives, and United States Ambassadors, and have served honorably as elected officials at the local and State levels throughout the United States; and

Whereas President George H.W. Bush cited AHEPA as one of America's "thousand points of light": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of American citizens of Hellenic heritage to the United States,

(2) commemorates the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), applauds its mission, and commends the many charitable contributions of its members to communities around the world, and

(3) requests the President of the United States to issue a proclamation acknowledging the 85th Anniversary of AHEPA and its many accomplishments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 71, to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, a leading association for 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution, and I thank Mrs. MALONEY for her leadership as the author of the resolution and as one of the Chairs of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, known as AHEPA, was born out of the cruelty and subjugation imposed upon many minorities by hate groups during the early 20th century. The organization was founded in Atlanta in 1922 to respond to growing attacks on Greek Americans and Greek American businesses by the Ku Klux Klan. It has since grown to become the largest and oldest American-based, Greek-heritage grass-roots membership organization.